



Town Lake Trail Foundation

TALKIN' TRAIL *and other good stuff!*

Summer 2007

HEALTHY TREES FOR THE TRAIL

We are pleased to announce the completion of our Healthy Trees for the Trail work on the north side of Town Lake, from the Congress Avenue bridge to just east of the new Mexican American Cultural Center. This is the third phase of our ongoing work maintaining the health of the woodlands adjoining the Trail. Over 400 trees were individually assessed by a professional arborist using a city-approved protocol previously developed by TLTF and our partner, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

American YouthWorks Environmental Corps removed invasive trees such as chinaberry, Chinese tallow, and ligustrum along the Trail. Davey Tree did professional pruning and removal of diseased and dangerous trees hanging over the Trail. The Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) removed brush generated by American YouthWorks and the Watershed Protection Department loaned us barges to help transport brush from areas with difficult access. We are grateful for the financial support of Texas Realty Capital, Cricket Wireless, and the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation.



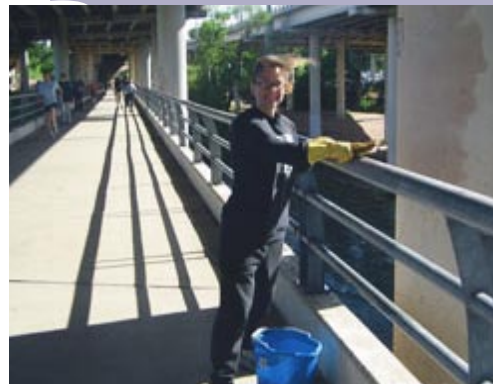
Hard-working Freescale volunteers, American YouthWorks crew members load barge with brush from invasive non-native trees.

TLTF VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

TLTF partnered with Keep Austin Beautiful on April 21 for the 2007 Clean Sweep. We gave Town Lake a major spring cleaning in conjunction with KAB's citywide effort, which had a major focus on waterways. Volunteers led by TLTF cleaned the Town Lake shoreline, and other KAB volunteers launched kayaks and canoes to clean on the water's edge. We could really see the difference!

On April 14 as part of It's My Park Day, TLTF did two improvement projects. At the TLTF-restored North Shore Overlook, we planted native plants, weeded, cleaned, mulched, and added decomposed granite. The beautiful lakefront area is appreciated by Trail users, from families to lovers, dogs, bikers, and readers.

A hard-working crew led by volunteer Rudy Herrera cleaned the rails along the Roberta Crenshaw Pedestrian Bridge despite challenging, windy conditions. The appearance and smell of the bridge was much improved by the work of those committed workers.



TLTF/ Clean Sweep volunteers from Avenue A Razorfish, TLTF volunteer cleans Roberta Crenshaw Bridge railings, TLTF volunteer at North Shore Overlook.

CRICKET WIRELESS COMMITS \$30,000 TO TLTF



L to R: Gina Dix, James Wyckoff, Amber Wood and Whitney Mullins.

Photo courtesy of Victor Ovalle

We are very grateful to Cricket Wireless for the commitment of \$30,000 to TLTF for Healthy Trees for the Trail work. This funding is much needed and will move us a long way toward our work of maintaining the health of the woodlands along the Trail. As part of HTFT, we plant new trees, remove invasive non-native trees, and prune trees for Trail user safety and tree health. Cricket has previously given TLTF underwriting support for the Zilker Bluffs Tree Grove.

ZILKER BLUFFS & NORTH SHORE OVERLOOK DEDICATION



L to R: John Loudamy, TLTF board; Dan Garrison, TLTF board; Vic Mathias, Town Lake Beautification Committee; Betty Wilson, Town Lake Beautification Committee; Griffin Davis, TLTF board; Luci Baines Johnson, keynote speaker; Susan Rankin, TLTF Executive Director; Lilla Ezell, Town Lake Beautification Committee.

Photo courtesy of Victor Ovalle

On April 25 we dedicated two of our signature projects, the North Shore Overlook and the Zilker Bluffs Tree Grove. TLTF was proud to have the opportunity to honor our predecessor group, the original 1970s Town Lake Beautification Committee. Then Mayor Roy Butler appointed this committee for which Lady Bird Johnson served as honorary chair. These civic leaders played a key leadership role in the early Town Lake beautification efforts which we all greatly benefit from today. TLTF was glad to receive the baton from this group. Inspiring keynote speakers at the event included Luci Baines Johnson and Catherine Robb who both regaled the crowd with stories of Lady Bird's enjoyment of the Trail and enthusiasm for the area's native plants.

MAYOR AND TLTF ANNOUNCE RIVERSIDE BOARDWALK PROGRESS

Many of us take our lives in our hands every time we brave the Riverside Drive/I-35 access road section of the 10-mile loop. For almost 20 years, Austin leaders have discussed ways to finish the Trail by closing this 1.1-mile gap along Riverside Drive. TLTF is now devoting resources toward completing that stretch of the Trail. Mayor Will Wynn and TLTF held a joint press conference on April 25th to announce the Riverside Boardwalk Investment Study as the next step toward completing the Trail as it was originally conceived in the 1970s.

Since the mid-1980s, the Austin Parks and Recreation Department and civic leaders have envisioned a Trail addition—the Riverside Boardwalk—that would complete the Trail. The plan as it has been envisioned over the years is a combination of over-water boardwalk and new land-based trail sections between the current trailhead near the Austin American Statesman and the Trail's eastern entrance on Lakeshore Boulevard.

Lou Neff Point Bricks

The first installation of commemorative bricks at Lou Neff Point is planned for June. Bricks that were purchased by May 13 will be included in the June installation. Bricks are still available in all three sizes, and orders will be accepted until all bricks are purchased. The second installation date will be determined by the speed of sales. We consider the first phase of this project a great success and expect brick sales to increase once trail users see the first batch in place. To place an order, visit www.townlaketrail.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



**SATURDAY
MAY 26**

**WILDFLOWER PLANTING
TOWN LAKE TRAIL**



WEDNESDAY

JUNE 20, 6:30 PM

**TLTF
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**



SATURDAY

JUNE 24, 7 PM (TENTATIVE)

**TLTF CASINO NIGHT
RINGERS SPORTS BAR**



THURSDAY

AUGUST 2, 8:24 PM

**3rd Annual
Moonlight Margarita Run**

The Town Lake Trail Foundation has retained SEC Planning, Inc. to execute the Riverside Boardwalk Investment Study (RBIS). SEC Planning is an award winning, Austin-based land planning and landscape architectural design firm. The RBIS will provide a comprehensive analysis and clear articulation of the range of issues and options associated with project development, helping guide the Town Lake Trail Foundation and its future partners in making the Boardwalk a reality. The study will explore and develop schematics of alternative alignments, conceptual designs, engineering issues, environmental issues, permitting requirements, funding options, public involvement plan, and cost estimates. We look forward to much input and involvement of our members in this important undertaking.

RBIS Donors

Mr. And Mrs. Robert Althius, AMD, Brown Mccarroll, Llp, Carma Texas Inc., Drenner & Golden Stuart Wolff, Llp, Downtown Austin Alliance, Endeavor Real Estate Group, Luci Baines Johnson, One Skye Foundation, Richard Suttle With Armbrust & Brown, Llp, Bruce Todd, Town Lake Trail Foundation

RBIS Endorsements

Austin Cycling Association, Austin Metro Trails and Greenways, Austin Parks Foundation, Austin Runners Club, Runtex, Savetownlake.org, Texas Bicycle Coalition

NEW TRAIL RESTROOM COMING THIS SUMMER



Not content with the status quo, the Town Lake Trail Foundation, with significant help from Miro Rivera Architects and the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, has begun construction of a new public restroom that is located about a half mile west of I-35 on the north side of the river, right next to the Milago Condominiums. The restroom will be the first of its kind - anywhere. Designed by renowned, award-winning architecture firm, Miro Rivera, the restroom is as much artistic sculpture as functional building. The open air facility is constructed with dozens of Corten steel panels that wrap into a lazy nautilus shape around the actual restroom fixtures. The artistic sculpture is completely ADA accessible and will feature a shower, water fountain, dog

fountain and a decomposed granite walkway. Architectural services and construction management advice were donated by Miro Rivera. Funding for the project was provided by The Moody Foundation of Galveston, The Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, Town Lake Trail members and participants in the 2005 and 2006 Moonlight Margarita Runs. The restroom is scheduled to be "open for business" later this summer. Please direct any questions about this exciting project to Dan Garrison, 302-0608 or dan@townlaketrail.org.

GARDEN ADOPTERS PLAY STARRING ROLE

Adopters in the Lady Bird Johnson Adopt-a-Garden program will soon get to shine on KLRU's "Central Texas Gardener" program. The taping occurred May 11; airing date to be announced.

The garden adopters are setting the bar higher and higher! Check out the new planting at the Cactus Pryor Garden — Dan Garrison, Stacey Kyrish and Rochelle Storin have added a beautiful selection of colorful xeric plants to set off the agaves and cacti. Robin Howard Moore has brought new life to the Agave Garden. Walk farther east and take a look at the three gardens at the north end of Pfluger Bridge. Irene Thien, Neely Ashmun and a crew from the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association have gone all out to make their gardens pop. Karen Perkins continues to create an oasis of tranquillity at her Shoal Creek Circle Garden.

On the south side of the lake, Lynn Smith has completed her garden just downhill of the water fountain to transform a waste area into a beautifully planted complement to our new construction at Lou Neff Point. Nearby, on the other side of Barton Creek, Bill Curra and Tommy Thomas have added new plants to their gardens at Butler Shores. And our friends at the Great Outdoors continue to keep the Crenshaw gardens handsome at the north end of the MoPac pedestrian bridge. Stop and say hello if you see them working in their gardens. It's one of the pleasures of having a garden on the trail.

WILDFLOWERS COMING TO ZILKER BLUFFS

ZILKER BLUFFS TREE GROVE ADOPTIONS

In addition to the previous 44 adopters of trees at the Zilker Bluffs Tree Grove, the following have adopted trees in 2007:

Friends and Family of Dave Kelley
Friends and Family of Fred Fordyce

There are some trees still available for adoption, including: Mexican white oaks, live oaks, cedar elms, Mexican orchid trees, possumhaw hollies, Texas mountain laurels, and Mexican buckeyes. To read about the trees and adopt your tree, go to <http://www.townlaketrail.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=37>

Every tree and shrub at Zilker Bluffs has survived its first winter and is putting on a great show of leaves. Now it's time to plant the array of Central Texas wildflowers that will complete our revegetation of the area.

On Saturday May 26 from 9 to noon, volunteers will plant tiny plugs of rooted wildflowers on the berms under the supervision of volunteer extraordinaire Jason Kelley. The plants will include Desert marigold, Firewheel, Gayfeather, Lemon beebalm, Pink evening primrose, Mexican hat, Lance-leaf coreopsis, Bluebells, and other well-loved Texas natives grown especially for us by Dan Hosage of Madrone Nursery, San Marcos. Come join us for as short or long a time as you like to make a little history on the trail! For more information, contact Jason_Kelley@dell.com.

THE STATE OF THE TRAIL AND THE FOUNDATION ~ A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ~

This spring, the Trail looks as beautiful as I have ever seen it in over 25 years of running, walking, and visiting. With the perspective that comes with time and has sharpened since becoming Executive Director last August, I see that the tree canopy that gives us that needed shade only gets better every year. And while nature is doing its part, we are doing ours to protect and improve this special place.

The Town Lake Trail Foundation is working to ensure that our Trail woodlands remain sustainable through our progressive work with the Healthy Trees for the Trail program. We just finished one section between Congress Avenue and the Mexican American Cultural Center and we'll do more in 2008. We are also thrilled that the passage of the 2006 City parks bonds means that we will see an increase in Trail area renovations by the City Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) during the next few years. PARD has committed to us that some of the bond money will be spent to address longstanding Trail needs such as erosion prevention and control. We meet monthly with PARD staff to make sure that your concerns for the Trail are heard.

We've all seen the increase in Trail use as the City has grown. There is an ever increasing need for TLTF to use private resources to continue to make everyone's Trail experience the best it can be in the years to come. The City's annual budget and the bond money help maintain and improve the Trail, but like with great parks and trails everywhere, private groups like ours are needed to go the extra mile and supplement those municipal resources.

The Trail Foundation is continuing to grow. We are learning from the projects we have executed so we can do even better work in the future. As always, we appreciate your continued support and your ideas on how to care for Austin's great place, the Town Lake Trail.

Susan Rankin

TLTF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Maura Nevel Thomas	Burget Ave Management Services
Colin Wallis	Lance Armstrong Foundation

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP EVENTS

More information coming soon!

May 26
Wildflower
PLANTING
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
CONTACT
JASON_KELLEY@DELL.COM



JUNE 24
TLTF CASINO NIGHT



August 2